



Swimming Australia Ltd International Clearance Policy

Rationale

As a member of FINA, Swimming Australia Limited (SAL) has agreed that its registered members will not compete outside of Australia without an International Clearance (FINA Rules GR2, GR3, GR4). This policy has been developed to ensure those FINA Rules are followed.

SAL in conjunction with state swimming associations and the national SIS/SAS network has developed an athlete pathway to assist athletes and their coaches set their goals, training and competitive programs. SAL recognises that all stakeholders of SAL have a role to play in the development of athletes. The SAL Athlete Pathway follows a logical and comprehensive bi-focal approach –

- camps (training/education)
- competition (domestic/international)

The competitive pathway is designed to provide a tiered approach where athletes and coaches are exposed to a controlled increase in the stress/pressure as the competitive environment becomes increasingly more difficult.

This tiered model provides for continuous education and skill development in a manner which encourages the athletes to adapt progressively to the rigours of international travel and increasing standards of competition. The ultimate aim is to provide our athletes and coaches with the experience essential in becoming effective at the highest international level of competition – the Olympic Games and World Championships.

General Guidelines

- a) The national program must be given priority by athletes selected to attend international championships. Therefore, overseas competitions must not conflict with national team camps, national competitions and international championships.
- b) In general, clearances will not be given to any team/club to compete at an event at which a SAL selected team is competing. SAL will encourage stakeholder groups to add athletes, coaches and support staff on to SAL selected team as long as they meet the SAL Additional Team Member Criteria for that Meet, which are detailed below.
- c) Athletes seeking clearance must have been available for selection in Australian Teams and have swum in the Australian Championships.

Athlete Qualification

- a) For SAL to provide clearances teams/clubs to compete overseas, the tour organisers must select athletes, who have attained the minimum standards set by SAL High Performance Committee and endorsed by the SAL Board. The minimum standards will be based on the qualifying standards of the meet or the FINA point score (FPS). These

minimum standards will be set each year after the state championship series.

- b) FPS must be achieved in the previous twelve (12) month period in individual Olympic events and over the relevant course. If attending a long course event, the athlete must have achieved a long course point score. Conversely, if attending a short course event must have achieved a relevant short course point score. The following table lists the required standards for 2009.

Region	Minimum Performance Standards
Oceania	Achieve the Meet Qualifying Times
Asia	Achieve the Meet Qualifying Times
Africa & The Americas	830
Europe	850

- c) For OWS meets in Europe, Africa and The Americas at least one of the following standards must be;
- A member of the 2009 Australian OWS World Championship Team or
 - Athlete finishing in the top 6 in the 10km 2009 Open National OWS Championships or
 - Athlete finishing in the top 3 in the 5km 2009 Open National OWS Championships or
 - Achieve a long course FPS of 830 points for the Women's 800m or Men's 1500m (Olympic Events) or FPS of 850 points for the Women's 1500m or Men's 800m (Non Olympic Events).in the previous twelve (12) month period.

SAL Additional Team Member Criteria

State swimming associations/institutes/academies of sport and the Australian Institute of Sport may be invited or may seek to be invited to add athletes and staff to selected SAL teams attending non-championship international events. Examples of such events would be the Mare Nostrum Series in Europe the Santa Clara Meet in the USA and selected OWS World Cup Events. Stakeholders wishing to add athletes and staff to such SAL teams should in the first instance contact the SAL High Performance Operations Manager, who will work with stakeholders in determining additions to SAL teams.

In general, stakeholder groups wishing to add athletes and staff to such teams must observe the following –

- Athletes must have achieved the minimum FPS requirements
- Staff ratios will be -
 - 1-2 athletes – 0-1 staff
 - 3-4 athletes – 1-2 staff
 - 5-6 athletes – 2-3 staff
- Athletes and staff come under the authority of the SAL appointed head coach
- Athletes and support staff abide by SAL Team By-Laws
- Athletes and support staff wear Telstra Dolphins apparel; with any co-branding of the tour member's respective institute/academy of sport approved by SAL
- Pay the tour fee as set by SAL

Club Clearances

Club Teams which are invited by an overseas club to compete in an event or educational visit hosted by that club will be approved. Clubs should be cognisant of part (b) of the General Guidelines.

Individual Clearances

- a) Athletes travelling overseas for educational reasons such as attending a university or participating in an educational exchange program will receive an international clearance up until the next major Australian Selection Trial.
- b) Athletes relocating overseas because of family work commitments will receive an international clearance up until the next major Australian Selection Trial.
- c) Athletes travelling overseas on family holidays who wish to compete while away will receive an international clearance up until the next major Australian Selection Trial.

Notes

- Athletes, who join overseas clubs during relocation or holidays, will need a clearance from the national federation, which governs **that club** when they return permanently to Australia.
- In all cases of individual clearances, it is the responsibility of the athlete to seek renewal of the clearance if the overseas stay exceeds one year.

General Procedures

- a) Only applications on the correct SAL International Clearance Form will be considered.
- b) Where possible, stakeholders should inform SAL of their intentions to tour six (6) months prior to the anticipated travel. The final application for the team/club clearances should be made three (3) months prior to the departure date. These need to be processed through the relevant state swimming association which will forward them to Swimming Australia. If individual athletes have not been finalized, the team/club should seek in principle support for the tour and then provide the names of the swimmers who have achieved the agreed standard to SAL at least six (6) weeks prior to travel.
- c) Individuals should apply for clearance a minimum of two (2) months prior to their date of departure. These need to be processed through the relevant state swimming association which will forward them to Swimming Australia.
- d) Teams/clubs competing overseas should attempt to return to Australia a minimum of twenty one (21) days prior to a national competition and a minimum of twenty eight (28) days prior to departure for international competition.
- e) Teams/clubs should not anticipate a clearance being granted. SAL can take no responsibility for bookings/deposits made prior to a clearance being granted.
- f) Any approval of a clearance outside this policy will be determined by the Chief Executive Officer on recommendation of the National Head Coach and the Chair of the High Performance Committee.